

The University of Chicago

THE MANUSCRIPT SOURCE
OF CAXTON'S SECOND EDITION OF
THE CANTERBURY TALES

A PART OF A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO
THE FACULTY OF THE DIVISION OF THE
HUMANITIES IN CANDIDACY FOR THE
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

1939

By
THOMAS F. DUNN

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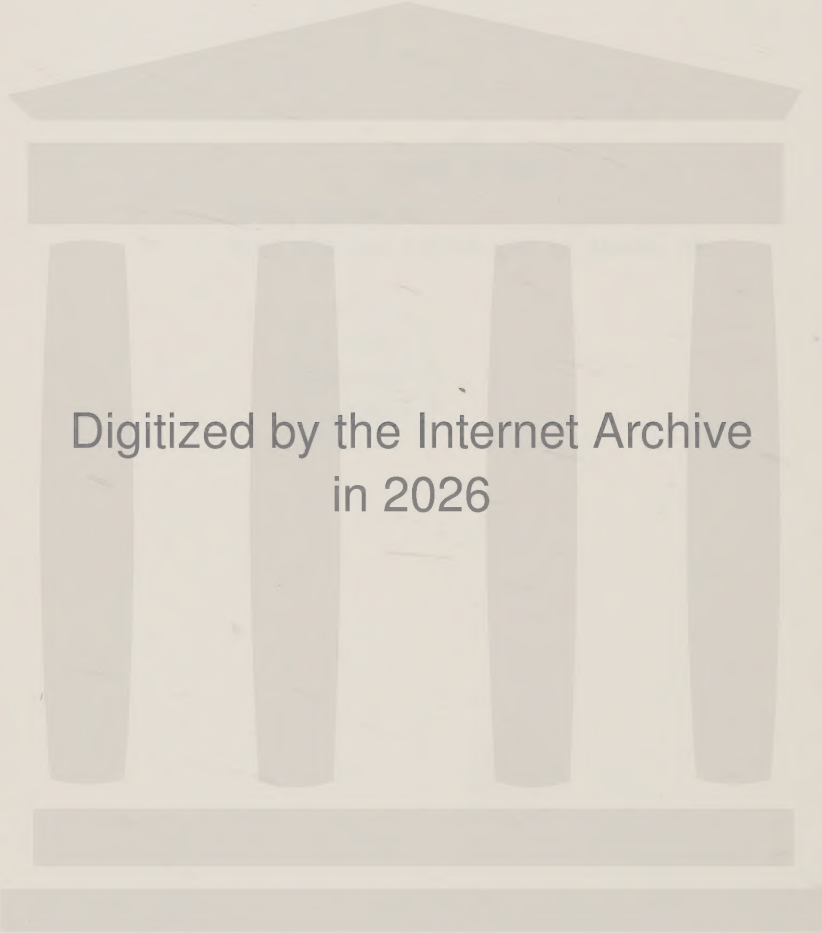
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To
John M. Manly

a worthy clerk
As preved by his wordes and his werk



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THE MANUSCRIPT SOURCE OF CAXTON'S SECOND
EDITION OF THE CANTERBURY TALES

The most recent attempts at determining the manuscript source of Caxton's second edition of The Canterbury Tales have shared the weakness of basing their conclusions on too little evidence. Greg¹ used only a little more than a hundred lines in The Knight's Tale, and Miss Kilgour studied only the general Prologue and The Pardoner's Tale.² The former scholar feared that it was not possible to determine the affinities of Cx² in The Knight's Tale, at least, and that the edition was about equally near to manuscripts in the El and Dd groups, the Corpus group, and the Petworth group. But he finally concluded that, of all the possibilities, Ad³ "does best."³ The latter writer seemingly set out to prove that this last assertion of Greg's was not only true, but that in preparing the copy for Cx² by making corrections in a copy of Cx¹ Caxton had "A³ [Ad³]" before him on the desk to refer to when he changed a reading."⁴ A more complete study than she made would have rendered this conclusion untenable.

It has been generally accepted that the statement made by Caxton in the "Proheme" to Cx² is true, and that Caxton used only one manuscript from which to make corrections in Cx¹ in preparing copy for Cx². After recording the conversation with his young friend who criticized the text of Cx¹, and agreed to supply a new manuscript to Caxton if he would print a second edition, Caxton says:

And thus we fyll at accord. And he ful gentlyll gate of hys
fader the said book and delyverd it to me by whyche I have
corrected my book as here after⁵ all alonge by thayde of al-
myghty god shal folowe. . . .

¹W. W. Greg, "The Early Printed Editions of the Canterbury Tales," PMLA, XXXIX (1924), 737-61.

²Margaret Kilgour, "The Manuscript Source of Caxton's Second Edition of the Canterbury Tales," PMLA, XLIV (1929), 186-201.

³Greg, PMLA, XXXIX, 753-54.

⁴Kilgour, PMLA, XLIV, 193.

⁵Cx², sig. a 11.

In exploring the implications of these statements in Caxton's "Proheme" I have studied the relationships of Caxton's two editions in the prose passages, the unique variants in Cx², the agreement of lines in Cx² with Cx¹ and the manuscripts, and the agreement of readings of Cx² with the manuscripts where Cx² departs from Cx¹.⁶ From all this material I shall offer evidence, first, that Cx² was set up from a corrected copy of Cx¹. Second, I shall show that Cx² is a conflate text, and, third, that it is an edited text. Finally, I shall attempt to demonstrate that the source of corrections in Cx² was a good manuscript that does not now exist.⁷ And as a by-product of this work, something of the quality of Caxton both as an editor and as a printer will appear.

THE PRINTING OF THE PROSE

In The Melibeus and The Parson's Tale Caxton seems to have had no intention of doing more in Cx² than to reproduce Cx¹ with a few minor changes where Cx¹ was obviously defective. In The Melibeus (B 2157-3078) Cx² and Cx¹ agree in omitting lines 2241, 2252-2253 (which do not occur in any manuscript but are supplied by Skeat from the French), 2476, 2497, 2514, 2623-2624 (not in any manuscript), 2753, 2835, and 2982. No line appears in one edition that does not appear in the other. In The Parson's Tale (I 75-1092) the two editions agree in omitting 241, 348-349, 415, and 532. In both, the parts of line 235 are disarranged and the parts of 373 are reversed. Again, in both, line 470 occurs between 474 and 475; 655-656 occur between 661-662, and 761-775 occur between 347 and 350. Both editions agree in the number of lines included and in the arrangement of them.⁸

Again, there is remarkable agreement between Cx¹ and Cx² textually. Using the Chicago collations, I counted the number of

⁶For this study I have used the collations of all the known extant manuscripts and Caxton's two editions made by Professors Manly and Rickert at the University of Chicago.

⁷This manuscript I shall henceforth designate, for the sake of convenience, by the symbol Y.

⁸For the full list of omissions of phrases and parts of lines in both Caxtons, see Sir William McCormick, The Manuscripts of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1933), pp. 62-63, 64-66, 72-73, 74-76.

times that Cx¹ and Cx² agree in differing from the readings in Skeat's one-volume Chaucer. In The Melibeus Cx¹ and Cx² together depart from Skeat's readings 1,475 times. Cx² varies from Cx¹ a total of 45 times. In The Parson's Tale there are 2,901 agreements and 68 variations. It is evident, then, that Caxton was pretty faithfully following the text of Cx¹.

Further, there is evidence that Caxton adhered to his copy when he printed Cx¹. Of the 1,475 agreements between Cx¹ and Cx² in The Melibeus, only 24 are peculiar to Cx¹ Cx². Of the 2,901 agreements in The Parson's Tale, only 38 are not to be found in some manuscript.⁹ In 1,940 lines of prose, then, there is positive proof of only 62 departures from his exemplar in the printing of Caxton's first edition. As a printer Caxton was fairly faithful in following his copy.

Of the 113 departures of Cx² from Cx¹ 32 present readings unique in Cx². With two exceptions, these 113 readings are corrections of typographical errors in Cx¹ or new ones made, substitutions, or mistaken readings of a word or phrase in the same place above or below the line being composed. They certainly do not indicate manuscript influence, but rather they are changes made by the compositor as he set up the type for Cx².

The final two variants may be from a manuscript. The last part of I 1082: and nat to my wil that wolde ful fayn have seyde bettre if I hadde conninge, and the phrase and endytinges from 1085 are both wanting from Cx¹ Tc², and the latter phrase is wanting also in Ii Ne. The first of these omissions was no doubt an eyeslip in the printing of Cx¹. But Caxton, like any other medieval reader, would have been impressed by Chaucer's retraction, and probably had already made the correction in the margin of the copy of Cx¹ from which he printed. Later because of a strong interest in the passage (he wrote a similar one himself in the Prologue of the Recuyell) he observed and restored the phrase in l. 1085. At any rate, this restoration does not enable one to point out a single manuscript source for it, and this passage does not indicate that any other of the prose was collated with a manuscript.

⁹ It is true that many of these readings are to be found only in Ne or Tc² among the manuscripts, but the fact that they are found there is evidence of a manuscript tradition with these readings. He, notwithstanding large omissions in The Parson's Tale, agrees with Cx¹ Cx² Ne Tc² very frequently.

From this brief summary of the evidence it is clear that Caxton attempted, in the prose, to do no more than to reproduce the text of Cx¹. Caxton, or his compositor, could certainly follow copy well, as well, in fact, as a modern printer. The changes that he made were designed (with the exception of the last two) to improve the readability of the text of Cx² over that of Cx¹. Only a minimum of new errors crept into the new edition. Finally, an examination of the prose of the two editions, and especially of the unique readings of Cx², offers strong evidence that the type for Cx² was set up from a copy of Cx¹.

THE UNIQUE VARIANTS OF Cx²

In studying the 340 unique readings of Cx² I placed before myself first the reading of Cx¹ with which Caxton started.¹⁰ Directly below this reading I placed the one which he in all probability found in Y, and below this one I placed the unique reading of Cx². By so doing I could see the exact process of the corrections.

All but forty-two of these unique readings are unimportant substitutions, inconsequential additions or omissions of words, typographical errors or new ones made, or changes of tense, number, or word order to which no significance can be attached. These forty-two readings, however, show that almost without exception the readings which Caxton found in Y are superior to those in Cx¹ and in general are those of the best extant manuscripts. In addition, they offer evidence that Cx² is a conflate text, and that in a few instances Caxton tried to edit the text. And, finally, they offer satisfactory demonstration of the statement made that Caxton set up the type for Cx² from a corrected copy of Cx¹. They do not give any indication of the precise manuscript that he used from which to correct Cx¹, and therefore I shall not attempt to record all of them.

¹⁰ Further evidence that Caxton set up type for Cx² from a copy of Cx¹ lies in the fact that Tc² was apparently copied from the exemplar of Cx¹ about the date of the printing of Cx². By that time that exemplar had lost some leaves in 'The Shipman's, Prioress', and Physician's tales, and had become disarranged somewhat. The scribe of Tc² sought a new manuscript in these portions of the Tales and therefore departs from Cx¹. Had Cx² been set up from the exemplar of Cx¹ at that time, it would likewise be entirely dependent upon a new manuscript in these portions, but it is not.

Seven instances more than suffice to demonstrate at once that he set up type for Cx² from a corrected copy of Cx¹ and the qualities of his workmanship in preparing the copy.¹¹

- A 3299 A clerk had lowdly biset Cx¹
 A clerk had litherly biset Ad¹ Ad³ Bo² Ch Cn Cp Dd Dl Ds
 El En¹ En² En³ Fi Gg Ha² Ha⁵ Hg Hk La Lc Ld¹ Ld² Ln Ma
 Mg Ps Py Ra³ Ry¹ Ry² Sl¹ Sl² To
Lytherly a clerk had biset Cx²
- B 57 of Certes of Alcion Cx¹
 of Ceys and Alcion Ad¹ Ad² Ad³ Bw Ch Cn Cp Dd Dl Ds El
 En¹ En² En³ Fi Gg Gl Ha² Ha³ Ha⁴ Ha⁵ He Hg Ht Ii La Lc
 Ld² Ma Mc Mg Mm Ne Ps Pw Ra² Ry¹ Ry² Se Sl² Tc¹
 of Ceys of Alcion Cx²
- E 2148 I care for thee Cx¹
 I chees thee for Ad¹ Ad³ Bo² Bw Ch Cp Dd Dl Ds El En¹ En³
 Fi Gg Gl Ha² Ha⁴ Ha⁵ He Hg Hk Ht Ii La Lc Ld¹ Ld² Ln Mg
 Mm Ne Nl Ph³ Ps Pw Py Ra³ Ry¹ Ry² Sl¹ Sl² Tc¹ To
 I chees for thee Cx²
- E 828 in high nobles and honourey Cx¹
 in honour and nobleye Ad¹ Ad² Bo¹ Bo² Ch Cn Cp Dd Ds El
 En¹ En³ Fi Gg Gl Ha⁴ Hg Hk Ht La Ln Ma Mc Np Ph² Py Ra¹
 Ra² Ra⁴ Ry¹ Si Sl² Tc²
 in high honour and nobleye Cx²
- E 948 sely poure creature the Marquesse Cx¹
 sely povre Grisildis Ad¹ Ad³ Bo² Bw Ch Cn Cp Dd Ds El
 En¹ En² En³ Gg Gl Ha⁴ Ha⁵ Hg Hk La Lc Ld¹ Ld² Ln Ma Mm
 Nl Np Ph² Ph³ Pw Ra¹ Ra³ Ry¹ Ry² Si Sl¹ Tc¹ To
 sely poure creature Grisildis Cx²
- E 953 is ful entierly Cx¹
 is outerly Ad¹ Ad² Ad³ Bo¹ Bo² Bw Ch Cn Cp Dd Ds El En¹
 En² En³ Fi Gg Gl Ha¹ Ha² Ha⁴ Hg Hk Ht La Lc Ld¹ Ld² Ma
 Mc Mg Mm Nl Np Ph² Ph³ Ps Pw Py Ra¹ Ra² Ra³ Ra⁴ Ry¹ Ry²
 Si Sl¹ Sl² Tc¹ Tc² To
 is ful utterly Cx²
- G 1239 yes sire pardee Cx¹
silver is pardee Ad¹ Ad³ Bo² Bw Ch Cp Dl En³ Gg Gl Ha⁴
 Hk Ht Ii La Lc Ld¹ Ld² Mg Mm Ph² Ph³ Pw Ry² Se Sl¹ Tc¹
Silver is sir pardee Cx²

¹¹From this point where lines or readings are listed, they will be listed in the order in which they occur in Cx².

The first reading listed above is a clear instance of Caxton's having borrowed the correct reading from his manuscript and inserting it in the margin of a copy of Cx¹ and deleting the erroneous lowdly. But he forgot to indicate, by a caret, where in the line the new word was to be inserted, and the compositor put it at the beginning of the line, for that literally is where Caxton had placed it. E 2148 shows that Caxton adopted the reading of the new line as far as the wording went, but he was in too much haste to observe that, without also changing the word order to that of the new manuscript, the meaning was less appropriate than in either of the texts before him. All of the other instances cited show equally indisputably that Cx² is from a corrected copy of Cx¹. And they illustrate as well Caxton's cardinal sin in collation. It is the sin of changing one or more words in a line--usually the largest and most obvious--but failing to adapt the line otherwise to fit the new words. Many times he fails to delete a word, as in the instances cited above, or to alter the idiom appropriately.

The failure either to delete or to adapt the line may have been due to the carelessness of haste. The make-up of the book indicates that Caxton may have rushed to put the edition out. Two-thirds the way through the volume the signatures change. The "Words of the Host to Chaucer" end with the last ten lines, followed by an Explicit Chawcers tale, on the recto of the last leaf of quire ii. The quire with the signature ii is a 6 whereas all the others save sig. v and the last are 8's. The Summoner's Tale ends at the top of the verso of sig. v⁶ followed by an allusion to the Prologue of The Clerk's Tale. The Prologue begins on sig. aa 1, unsigned. No link connects the two tales, so apparently Caxton began what seemed to him to be a new section of the Tales with a new quire. But ii is not followed by kk, but by A 1 as the Prologue of The Melibeus begins. This change of signatures (using caps) can only mean that a second compositor began work at that point. Whether this division between the two workmen had been made at the outset of the job or not is difficult to say, but I incline to the belief that it was made after the work on the Tales was well started. If Cx² is divided at the end of The Merchant's Tale, which follows The Man of Law's Tale in Cx², it will be found that the remaining portion of the Tales forms about equal quantities if divided between The Thopas and The Melibeus. Since I assume that Caxton would give equal portions to each compositor to

work on, it appears that the decision to start a second compositor was made after The Merchant's Tale was set up. Furthermore there is another item to be considered. It has already been shown that the prose is not collated at all. The Monk's Tale, The Nun's Priest's Tale, and The Manciple's Tale, the only others with the capital signatures, are only slightly changed. Indeed, long passages in these tales are passed over without an alteration of text. Hence, I conclude that for some reason--perhaps the anxiety of the owner of the manuscript--Caxton speeded up the work of composing after he had begun the second edition, and found that he had then to forego the collation of the prose entirely and to scant that of the verse tales assigned to the compositor of the capital signatures.

The unique variants compel us, too, to admit that the text of Cx² was edited slightly.

D 144 And lat us usen hoot barley breed Cx¹
 And lat us wyves hoten barley breed Ad³ Bo² Ch Dd Ds El
 En¹ Gg Hg Ht

And lat to us wyves hoten barley breed Cx²
 D 848 make the for to morne Cx¹
 make thyn herte for to morne Ad¹ Ad³ Bo¹ Bo² Ch Cn Cp Dd
 Ds El En¹ En³ Ff Gg Gl Ha² Ha⁴ Ha⁵ Hg Hk Ht La Lc Ln Ma
 Mc Mg Mm Nl Ph² Ph³ Ps Pw Py Ra¹ Ra² Ra³ Ry¹ Se Si Sl¹
 Sl² Tc¹ To

make the sore for to morne Cx²

B 4065 Of Chauntecleer loking in every lith Cx¹
 Of Chaunteclerys loking in every lith Cx²

In D 144 the force of the adjective hoot in Cx¹ was so strong in Caxton's mind that he misread hoten (was called) as also a form of the adjective. Hence he misinterpreted lat as meaning "leave to" and decided to insert the to, not found in any manuscript, to clarify what he thought was the right meaning. In D 848 had Caxton looked at Y he no doubt would have seen the reading that all the manuscripts have, but instead he inserted a favorite adjective, sore, without benefit of a manuscript, and satisfied himself that he had done well. In the last quoted reading he would likewise have found in Y in all probability loken. But apparently he did not look at Y, but edited for grammatical agreement the reading standing in Cx¹. Caxton also changed thrifty to sharp in B 1165, and at least applied an adjective more

appropriate to The Merchant's Tale than thrifty which in Cx¹ and all manuscripts applies to the tale of Constance. He likewise edited B 4652: Sayde to another man, to prepare for The Manciple's Tale which follows. The unique reading of Italye where Cx¹ and all manuscripts read this land in E 132 may possibly be editing or a sense substitution. Here are just enough instances to make it possible to say that the text of Cx² was edited.

The question of editing is likewise involved in the arrangement of the tales in Cx². Miss Hammond attempted to account for the arrangement in Cx² of The Merchant's Tale after The Man of Law's Tale by fascicular displacement of that portion of the Tales in Y or in its archetype.¹² In both Cx¹ and Cx² the "Man of Law's End-link" connects the preceding tale with the Squire, and in Cx¹ The Squire's Tale follows The Man of Law's Tale. In Cx¹, too, The Squire's Tale and The Franklin's Tale are separated, and the words of the Franklin to the Squire are wanting. In Y Caxton found the words of the Franklin to the Squire and saw at once that The Franklin's Tale should follow The Squire's Tale. Accordingly he made The Merchant's Tale follow The Man of Law's Tale and used the present Man of Law's End-link to connect The Merchant's Tale and The Squire's Tale. This move gave a completed Squire-Franklin group, but left the Clerk-Merchant group still more remote than in Cx¹. It is not strange, however, that Caxton, having as Cx² does, the seven-line Verba Hospitis, should not see the verbal connection linking the clerk's and merchant's tales directly together. None of the manuscripts having the Verba Hospitis fails to insert it between the last of the clerk's and the first of the merchant's tales. It is easy to see, therefore, that the arrangement of the tales in Cx² is due to Caxton's attempt at editing the order after he had discovered the Words of the Franklin to the Squire, and that there is no need to resort to the theory of fascicular displacement to explain the order of Cx².

Such readings as E 828, E 948, and E 953 listed above, though resulting from failures to delete words meant to be replaced, are in reality conflations, though not deliberate ones. Another excellent example of conflation, perhaps deliberate this

¹²E. P. Hammond, "On the Order of the Canterbury Tales: Caxton's Two Editions," Modern Philology, III (1905-06), 167.

time, appears below.

C 318 Thou bel amy John Pardoner he seyde Cx¹
 Thou bel amy thou pardoner he seyde Ad¹ Ad³ Bo² Ch Cn Dd
 Ds El En¹ En³ Ha⁵ Hg Ma Py
 Thou bel amy thou John pardoner he seyde Cx²

The retention of the John may likewise be due to a failure to delete a word meant to be replaced, but this retention looks more deliberate than any of the others. But from whatever the cause, it is necessary to acknowledge that Cx² is textually conflated. And, in addition, in order to estimate the degree of conflation in Cx² one must take account of the large number of readings borrowed by Cx² from Y which agree with other manuscripts and the large number of whole lines and passages borrowed. Indeed, to have proved that Caxton set up type for Cx² from a corrected copy of Cx¹ is to prove that Cx² is conflated.

It is to be noted that all of the unique readings that I have cited, as well as the great number that it is not worth while listing here, indicate that the readings before Caxton when he corrected Cx¹ were readings of the best manuscripts. This is almost consistently true wherever Cx² departs from the text of Cx¹, and this fact affords conclusive evidence that Y was a good manuscript.

THE AGREEMENT OF LINES IN CX¹ AND CX²

The most palpable evidence that Cx² was not produced by the collation of Cx¹ and an extant manuscript lies in a comparison of the lines contained in the two texts. The following is a complete list of the 277 lines appearing in Cx² that are not in Cx¹, though Cx¹ has spurious lines in the place of 62 of them.¹³

Lines in Cx ²	MSS lacking the lines
A 197-198	Cx ¹ Tc ²
A 221	Cx ¹ * Ht Nl Tc ² *
A 252b-252c	Ad ¹ Bo ¹ Bo ² Cn Cp Cx ¹ Dl Ds El En ¹ En ³ Fi Gg Ha ³ Ha ⁴ Ht Ii La Lc Ld ¹ Ma Mg Mm Nl Ph ² Ps Pw Ra ³ Ry ¹ Ry ² Se Sl ² Tc ² To (Dd lacks A 1-152 because of missing leaves, but apparently it did not contain these lines. They occur only in Ch Cx ² Hg Ld ² Py Tc ¹ and

¹³The presence of a spurious line is indicated by an asterisk.

Lines in Cx²

MSS lacking the lines

in the margin of Ha².)

A 305	Cx ¹ Ha ⁴ * Ii Id ¹ Nl Tc ²
A 400	Cx ¹ * Ii* Id ¹ * Nl* Tc ² *
A 403	Cx ¹ * Ii* Id ¹ * Nl* Tc ² *
A 1148-1161	Cx ¹ Ii Ne Nl Tc ²
A 1193-1200	Cx ¹ Ii Ne Nl Tc ² (F1 1199-1201)
A 1220-1224	Cx ¹ Ne Nl Tc ²
A 1462	Cx ¹ * Ii Ne Nl Tc ² *
A 1593-1602	Cx ¹ Ne Nl Tc ²
A 1943	Cx ¹ * Ii Ne Nl Tc ² *
A 2012-2017	Cx ¹ Ha ⁴ He Ii Ne Nl Tc ²
A 2044	Cx ¹ * He Ii Ln Ne Nl Tc ² *
A 2195	Cx ¹ * He* Ne* Nl* Tc ² *
A 2212	Cx ¹ * He Id ² * Ne Nl Tc ² *
A 2501-2502	Ad ² Bw Cx ¹ He Ne Nl Tc ²
A 2549	Ad ¹ * Cx ¹ * En ³ * He* Hk* Ne* Nl* Tc ² *
A 2603-2604	Cx ¹ Ne Ry ¹ Tc ² (Ha ¹ Ps* lack 2603)
A 2655	Ad ² * Bo ² * Bw* Cp* Cx ¹ * En ² * En ³ * F1* Gl* Ha ² * Ha ³ * Ha ⁴ * He* Hk* Ii* La* Lc* Id ¹ * Id ² * Ll* Ln* Mg* Mn* Ne* Nl* Pw* Ra ¹ * Ra ³ * Ry ¹ * Ry ² * Se* Sl ¹ * Sl ² * Tc ¹ * Tc ² *
A 2741	Ad ² * Bw* Cx ¹ * He* Ne* Nl* Ra ¹ * Tc ² *
A 2787-2792	Cx ¹ He Ne Nl Tc ²
A 2815	Cx ¹ He Ne Nl Tc ²
A 2899-2900	Ad ¹ Cx ¹ En ³ He Hk Ne Tc ²
A 3233	Cx ¹ * He* Ne Tc ² *
A 3602	Cx ¹ * He Ne Tc ² *
A 3651	Cx ¹ * Ne Tc ² *
A 3765-3772	Cx ¹ He Ne Tc ²
A 4351-4352	Cx ¹ He Ne Ox Tc ²
A 4404	Bo ² * Cx ¹ Ne Tc ²
B 42	Cx ¹ * Ne Tc ² *
B 276	Cx ¹ * Ne Tc ² *
B 985	Cx ¹ * He Id ² * (in different hand in margin) Ne Tc ² *
E 1307-1308	Cx ¹ Tc ²
E 1477	Cp* Cx ¹ * Ha ³ * He* La* Ne* Sl ² * Tc ² *
E 1646-1647	Cp Cx ¹ Dl En ² Gl Ha ² Ha ³ He Ii La Lc Id ¹ Id ² Mg Mn Ne Nl Ph ³ Pw Ry ² Sl ¹ Sl ² Tc ² Tc
E 1777-1778	Cx ¹ * F1* Ha ³ * He* Ne* Tc ² *

Lines in Cx²

MSS lacking the lines

- E 1816 Cp* Cx¹* D1* En²* G1* Ha²* Ha³* He* I1* La* Lc* Ld¹*
Ld²* Mg* Mm* Ne* N1* Ph³* Pw* Ry²* Se* Sl¹* Sl²*
Tc²* To* (The varying spurious lines occur after
1818, the three preceding lines riming with it.)
- E 1927-1928 Cp Cx¹ D1 En² G1 Ha² Ha³ He I1 La Lc Ld¹ Ld² Mg Mm
Ne N1 Ph³ Pw Ry² Sl¹ Sl² Tc² To
- E 1986 Cx¹* Ha³* He Ne Py* Tc²*
- E 2004 Ad³ Cx¹ Ha³ He Ne Ps Tc² (Ad³ Ps omit 2005 also.)*
- E 2072 Cp* Cx¹* D1* En²* G1* Ha²* Ha³* He* I1* La* Lc*
Ld¹* Ld²* Mg* Mm* Ne* N1* Ph³* Pw* Ry²* Se* Sl¹*
Sl²* Tc²* To*
- E 2230 Ad³* Bw* Cn* Cp* Cx¹* D1* En²* F1* G1* Ha²* Ha⁵*
He* Hg* Ht* I1* La* Lc* Ld¹* Ld²* Ln* Ma* Mg* Mm*
Ne* N1* Ph³* Ps* Pw* Py* Ra³* Ry¹* Ry²* Se* Sl¹*
Sl²* Tc¹* Tc²* To (Only in Bo² Ch Cx² El Gg.)
- E 2266 Cx¹* He* Ne Tc²*
- E 2280-2287 Cx¹ F1 He Ne Tc²
- F 553-558 Cx¹ Ne N1 Ps Tc² (F1 555-56; Ne adds 553, 554, 557,
558 in a late hand at the bottom of the page.)
- F 673-708 Ch Cp Cx¹ Ha³ He Hk La Mc Ne Ra¹ Ry¹ Se Sl² Tc² To
- F 764 Cx¹* Ha³* He Hk* Ne Tc²*
- F 975 Cx¹* Ha³* He I1* Ne Tc²*
- F 982 Cn Cx¹* Ha³* He* I1* Ne Tc²*
- F 1130 Cx¹* Ha³* He* Hk* I1* Ne* Tc²*
- F 1254 Cx¹* Ha³* He* Hk* Ne* Tc²*
- F 1257-1262 Cx¹ Ha³ He Hk Ne Tc²
- F 1320 Cx¹ Ha³ He Hk I1 Ne Tc²
- F 1455-1456 Ad¹ Bo¹ Bo² Bw Ch Cn Cp Cx¹ Dd D1 Ds En¹ En² En³ F1
Gg Gl Ha² Ha³ Ha⁴ Ha⁵ He Hg Hk Ht I1 La Lc Ld¹ Ld²
Ln Ma Mg Mm Ne N1 Ph² Ps Pw Py Ra³ Ry¹ Ry² Se Sl¹
Sl² Tc¹ Tc² To (Dd lacks a leaf here, but it proba-
bly did not have these lines. They are contained
only in Ad³ Cx² El.)
- F 1463-1465 Cx¹* Ha³* He Ne Tc²*
- F 1493-1498 Ad¹ Bo¹ Bo² Bw Ch Cn Cp Cx¹ Dd Ds En¹ En² En³ F1 Gg
Gl Ha² Ha³ Ha⁴ Ha⁵ He Hg Hk Ht I1 La Lc Ld¹ Ld² Ln
Ma Mg Mm Ne N1 Ph² Ps Pw Py Ra³ Ry¹ Ry² Se Sl¹ Sl²
Tc¹ Tc² To (These lines are contained only in Ad³
Cx² El.)

Lines in Cx²

MSS lacking the lines

- D 46 Cn* Cx¹* Ds* En¹* He* Ii* Ma* Ne* Se* Si* Tc²*
- D 197 Cx¹ He Ne Tc²
- D 381 Cx¹* He Ne Se Tc²*
- D 1527-1530 Cx¹ Ha³ He Ne Tc²
- D 1917 Cx¹* Tc²*
- D 2018 Cx¹* Ha³ He* Ii* Ne Tc²*
- D 2229 Ad¹* Cn* Cx¹* Ds* En¹* En³* Ha³* He* Ii* Ld¹* Ln*
Ma* Ne* Nl* Se* Tc²* (Dd has the line over an
erasure.)
- E 217 Cx¹* Ne* Tc²*
- E 455 Cx¹* Ne Tc²*
- E 702 Cx¹* Ne
- E 775 Cn* Cx¹* Dd* Ds* En¹* Ha³* He* Ii* Ln* Ma* Ne* Se*
Tc²* (First half of 775 and last of 776 used to
make 776; last half of 775 only is lacking.)
- E 997-998 Cx¹* Ha³ He Ii Ne
- G 245 Cx¹* Ha³* He* Ne* Tc²*
- G 544 Cx¹* Ha³* He* Ne* Tc²*
- G 704-709 Cx¹ Ha³ Ne
- G 787-789 Bo¹ Cx¹ Hk Ne Ph² Ps
- C 246 Cx¹ Ne
- C 291-2 Cp* Cx¹* Dl¹* Gl Ha²* Ha³* Ha⁴* He* Ii* La* Lc* Id²*
Mg Ne* Nl Ps* Ra³ Ry¹* Ry²* Tc² To*
- C 297-298 Ad¹ Ad² Bo¹ Bo² Bw Ch Cx¹ Dd Dl² Ds El En¹ En³ Fi
Gl Hg Ht Ln Mm Nl Ph² Ph³ Pw Py Ra² Ra³ Se Sl¹ Sl²
Tc¹ Tc² To (follow 300 in Ad³ Cn Ha⁵ Ma)
- C 356 Ad² Bo¹* Bw* Cp* Cx¹* Dl* Fi* Gl* Ha²* Ha³* He* Ht*
Ii* La* Lc* Ld¹* Ld²* Ln Mg* Mm* Ne* Ph²* Ph³* Pw*
Ra²* Ra³* Ry¹* Ry²* Sl¹* Sl²* Tc²* To*
- C 361 Cp* Cx¹* Ha³* La* Ne* Sl²* Tc²*
- C 448 Cx¹ Tc²
- C 466 Ad²* Cx¹* Ha³ He* Ii* La Ln Ne Sl² Tc²*
- C 593 Cx¹ Ha³ He Ne
- C 622 Cp* Cx¹* Ha³* He* La* Ne* Sl²*
- C 869 Cx¹ Ha³ He Ii Ne Tc² (These MSS expand the last
words of 869 and 870 to make 869-70.)
- B 1237-1238 Bo² Cx¹ Ne Ph¹ Tc²
- B 1932 Cx¹ (at end of page)
- B 1993 Cx¹ Ha² He Ii Ma Ne Ry¹

Lines in Cx ²	MSS lacking the lines
B 2011-2014	Cx ¹ Ne Ps Tc ¹
B 2077	Bo ¹ Bo ² Cx ¹ Gl Ha ² Ha ³ He Ii Ma Mc Ne Ph ² Ra ¹ Ra ³ Sl ²
B 3187	Bw Cp Cx ¹ * He La Lc Mg Ne Ra ² Sl ² Tc ² * Tc ³ *
B 3197-3204	Cp Cx ¹ He Hg Lc Mc Mg Ne Sl ² Tc ²
B 3243	Bw* Cp* Cx ¹ * En ² * He* Ii* La* Lc* Mg* Ne* Ra ² * Ry ² * Sl ² * Tc ² * Tc ³ * To*
B 3249	Cx ¹ * He Ne Tc ² * Tc ³ * (B 3249-50 combined to make B 3250.)
B 3267	Cx ¹ * He Ne Tc ² * Tc ³ *
B 3565-3588	Cx ¹ He Ne Ps Tc ² Tc ³
B 3611	Bw Cp Cx ¹ En ² Ha ³ He Ii* La Ne Ry ² Sl ² Tc ² Tc ³ To
B 3632	Cx ¹ * He Ne Tc ² * Tc ³ *
B 3764	Bw Cp Cx ¹ * Dl* Fi Gl Ha ² * Ha ³ * He Ii* La Lc* Mg* Mm Ne Nl Ph ³ Pw Ry ² * Sl ¹ Sl ² Tc ² * Tc ³ *
B 3961-3980	Cp Cx ¹ Gl Ha ³ He Hg Mc Ne Ps Pw Py Ra ³ Se Sl ² Tc ¹ Tc ²
B 4060b-c	Ad ¹ Ad ³ Bo ¹ Bw Ch Cp Cx ¹ El En ² En ³ Fi Gg Gl Ha ² Ha ³ Ha ⁴ He Hg Ht Ii La Lc Ld ¹ Mc Mg Mm Ne Ps Pw Py Ra ³ Ry ² Se Sl ¹ Sl ² Tc ¹ To (Only in Cn Cx ² Ds En ¹ Ln Ma Nl Ry ¹ ; Dd lacks a leaf here containing 80 lines between 4000-4079, so that it is evident Dd con- tained the couplet.)
B 4122	Cx ¹ * He Ne Tc ² *
B 4135	Cx ¹ (at end of page) Tc ²
B 4396	Bo ¹ * Bw* Cp* Cx ¹ * Dl* En ² * Ha ² * La* Lc* Mc* Mg* Mm* Ne* Ph ² * Ph ³ * Pw* Ra ² * Ry ¹ * Ry ² * Se* Sl ¹ * Sl ² * Tc ¹ * Tc ² * To*
B 4476	Bo ¹ * Bw* Cp* Cx ¹ * Dl* En ² * Fi* Ha ² * Ht* La* Lc* Mc* Mg* Ne* Ph ² * Ph ³ * Pw* Ra ² * Ry ² * Sl ¹ * Sl ² * Tc ² *
B 4637-52	Ad ³ Bo ¹ Bw Cp Cx ¹ Dd El Fi Gl Ha ² Ha ³ Ha ⁴ He Hg Ht Ii La Lc Ln Mc Mg Mm Ne Nl Ph ² Ph ³ Ps Pw Py Ra ² Ra ³ Ry ² Se Sl ² Tc ¹ Tc ² To (These lines occur only in Ad ¹ Ch Cn Cx ² Dd Ds En ¹ En ³ Ma Ry ¹ .)
H 316	Cx ¹ He* Ne Tc ²

This list reveals that no extant manuscript could have supplied all the lines that are in Cx². The manuscripts which are closest to Cx², and the lines in Cx² which they lack, may be represented tabularly.

Dd 13 lines: [A 252b-c], C 297-298, E 775, F 1455-1456
[F 1493-1498].

Cn 16 lines: A 252b-c, D 46, D 2229, D 2254, E 775, E 2230,
F 982, F 1455-1456, F 1493-1498.

Ds and En¹ 16 lines: A 252b-c, C 297-298, D 46, D 2229, D 2254,
E 775, F 1455-1456, F 1493-1498.

Ma 17 lines: A 252b-c, B 1993, B 2077, D 46, D 2229, D 2254,
E 775, E 2230, F 1455-1456, F 1493-1498.

Ad¹ 19 lines: A 252b-c, A 2549, A 2899-2900, B 4060b-c, C 297-298,
D 2229, D 2254, F 1455-1456, F 1493-1498.

En³ 19 lines: A 252b-c, A 2549, A 2899-2900, B 4060b-c, C 297-298,
D 2229, D 2254, F 1455-1456, F 1493-1498.

Ad³ 20 lines: B 4060b-c, B 4637-4652, E 2004, E 2230.

El 22 lines: A 252b-c, B 4060b-c, B 4637-4652, C 297-298.

Gg lacks twenty-eight lines in five passages; Ch lacks forty-eight lines in five passages, and Hg lacks fifty-seven lines in eight passages.

Of all the manuscripts Dd is the closest to Cx² in the number of essential lines. As is to be expected, Ds En¹ and Cn Ma, sub-families in the a-group, run close together and not far from Dd, the nearest to Cx², though En¹ is actually the typical manuscript of the group Dd Ds En¹. Ad³ is next and El immediately follows. Ad¹ and Ha⁵ have too many lost leaves to determine anything definitely from them. In the number of passages wanting, Ad³ and El are the closest to Cx² with only four lacking; Dd lacks five. Other manuscripts are still more remote.

In addition to the sixty-two spurious lines (indicated by the asterisks in the list above) replaced in Cx² by the acquisition of authentic lines, Cx² has lost twenty-seven other spurious lines contained in Cx¹. They are as follows: a line between A 163-164, one between A 165-166, one in the place of A 221, one following A 308, one following A 1218, couplet before B 1507, couplet before B 1509, one before B 1997, C 926 repeated, couplet following D 332, eight lines following E 2354, couplet before E 2367, four lines before E 2377. This makes a total of eighty-nine lines that Caxton has either replaced or rejected in his editorial vigilance, with the result that Cx² is vastly superior to Cx¹ in the matter of correct lines contained.

Caxton, however, retained in Cx² fifteen spurious lines from Cx¹. They are found as follows: one after A 1943, one for

B 1807, one for B 4117, one before B 3704, one for each of lines C 299, C 428, C 660, C 786, one before C 488, one before C 489, two before D 1249, one for E 1460, and two for G 205-206. The retention of most, if not all, of these was due to faulty judgment or to carelessness. Carelessness, due to haste I believe, was largely responsible.

Cx² acquired no spurious lines from Y save the couplet B 4060b-c which appear in Cn [Dd] Ds En¹ Ln Ma Nl Ry¹ only. Cx² lost, however, four authentic lines contained in Cx¹. Two of these, the couplet A 2681-2682, are wanting in Ad¹ Ad³ Dd El En³ Gg Ha¹ Ha⁵ Hg Hk Ps Py To. Y evidently lacked it too, and Caxton considered it spurious. The loss of E 2364-2365 was due to an eyeskip on the part of the compositor, for both E 2364 and E 2366 end in forms of the word cry. Besides Cx², Cp La Sl² only lack this couplet, and none of these is affiliated with Y.

Cx² follows Cx¹ in omitting fifty-one lines which have been accepted as authentic. They are as follows: A 221, A 3155-3156, B 1807, B 1995, B 2108, B 3705, B 4117, C 299, C 428, C 660, C 786, E 1305-1306, E 1460, E 2419-2440, F 1-8, G 205-206, G 622, G 838-839, I 18. It is highly probable that Y contained at least some of these lines, for B 1807 is wanting only in Ha³ He Ne besides Caxton's two editions, and only Caxton's two editions have a spurious line in its place. Again, only the editions lack G 622, and, accordingly, only in them are the following pair of lines combined to fill the metrical gap. It would seem that Caxton had himself supplied both these spurious lines in Cx¹ and blindly allowed his own handiwork to remain in the new edition. This was carelessness indeed. It is not likely that these are the only instances in which his new manuscript could have given him something which he did not have in Cx¹.

Caxton's borrowed manuscript, though not perfect, was a good manuscript, and it is unfortunate that he did not reprint it exactly.

THE AGREEMENT OF VARIANTS

Having determined that Y is not to be identified with any extant manuscript and that it was related to manuscripts of the a-group rather than to those of other groups, I have studied the variants of Cx² from Cx¹ in relationship to the six typical manu-

scripts of the sub-families of the a-group.¹⁴ These six manuscripts are Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹ and En³. I have listed below the significant agreements of Cx² with these manuscripts both where Cx¹ is wanting and where Cx² departs from a reading contained in Cx¹.¹⁵

<u>The Prologue</u>							
Cx ¹	Cx ²	El	Ch	En ³	En ¹	Ad ³	Dd ¹⁶
402	192	132	120	113	96	82	39
	13	10	11	9	10	5	4
	14	10	14	9	8	10	4

Because of missing leaves Ad³ lacks A 1-153 and A 234-396. Dd for the same reason lacks A 1-252 and A 505-758. The comparison with these manuscripts, therefore, is hardly fair. The following variants and readings I deem significant.

A 58	At <u>Cartage</u> was he	Cx ¹
	At Lyeys was he	Cx ² Ch El En ³
A 79	<u>a semely</u> yong squyer	Cx ¹
	his sone a yong squyer	Cx ² Ch El En ¹ En ³
A 115	--- <u>ful</u> shene	Cx ¹
	of silver shene	Cx ² Ch El En ¹ En ³
A 116	<u>a</u> --- bawdrik grene	Cx ¹
	his bawdrik was of grene	Cx ² Ch El En ¹ En ³
A 190	<u>mylk whit</u>	Cx ¹
	fowel in flight	Cx ² Ad ³ Ch El En ³

¹⁴There are a few variants in Cx² which could not have arisen but by manuscript influence which agree not with any of the six manuscripts listed here but with others only. In the following list I have ignored them altogether. Their presence merely emphasizes the fact that Cx² is not from any extant manuscript.

¹⁵I have, however, omitted from the account 231 supplied readings in which Cx² agrees with all six manuscripts and 67 variants in which the agreement is complete.

¹⁶In the first line of figures the number under the symbol Cx¹ is always the number of times that Cx¹ and Cx² depart together from Skeat. The number under the symbol Cx² is always the total number of times that Cx² departs from Cx¹. The other figures in the first line are the numbers of times Cx² agrees with the MS whose symbol appears above the figure. The second line of figures records the number of significant variants from Cx¹ and the agreements with the MSS. The third line records the number of readings in lines wanting in Cx¹ and the agreements of Cx² with the MSS. If only two lines of figures occur, a glance at the readings recorded will tell whether the second refers to variants or to supplied readings.

- A 197* a love-notte in the Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 A 197* gretter ende ther was Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹
 A 198* His heed was balled that shoon Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 A 198* As any glas Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 A 221* Ful swetely Cx² Ad³ Ch El
 A 221* herde he confessioun Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 A 228 If --- Cx¹
 He wiste Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 A 238 milk whit he was Cx¹
 His nekke was white Cx² En¹
 A 252b* And yaf a certeyn ferme for the graunt Cx² Ch
 A 252c* Noon of his bretheren Cx² Ch
 A 252c* cam --- in his haunt Cx² Ch
 A 299 his freendes have help Cx¹
 his freendes hente Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 A 305* And that was seyde in forme Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 A 305* and reverence Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 A 400* By water he sente hem hoom Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 A 400* to every lond Cx² Ad³ Ch El
 A 403* --- his mone Cx² Dd En¹
 A 403* and his lodemenage Cx² Ad³ En³
 A 408 From Yngelond Cx¹
 From Gootlond Cx² Dd El En¹
 A 430 And eek Platearius Cx¹
 And eek Rusus Cx² Ch Dd En¹
 A 457 shoos --- --- ful newe Cx¹
 shoos ful moist and newe Cx² Ad³ Ch El
 A 631 that ichith Cx¹
 that wolde clense Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³

On the basis of the significant agreements and readings supplied, none of the manuscripts could be the source of Cx², but Ch is the closest. But to show how untrustworthy is this body of evidence taken alone, I cite the fact that Ha² has a total of 123 agreements with Cx² in the Prologue, Bo¹ 116, Bo² 111, Cp 104, and Tc¹ 101. Of the significant readings Ha² has an agreement of 12, Bo¹ of 10, Tc¹ of 9, Cp of 8, and Bo² of 8. In the omitted passages Ha² agrees with Cx² 11 times, Bo² 9 times, Cp and Bo¹ 8 times, and Tc¹ 7 times. The evidence of agreements of variants, then, points not to a source but to affiliations. The affiliations of Cx² in the Prologue are with the a-group of manuscripts.

Within the a-group, the existence of A 252b-c is most important. Of the extant texts containing the couplet, Cx² agrees only with the version of Ch. In the Prologue, then, Ch is the nearest extant manuscript to the lost source of Cx².

<u>The Knight's Tale</u>							
Cx ¹	Cx ²	El	Ch	En ¹	Ad ³	En ³	Dd
962	661	536	508	488	434	431	342
	34	33	33	32	29	31	25
	123	101	89	95	87	85	58

In Ad³ A 1269-1898 are missing; in Dd lines A 920-1170, 1502-1931, 2927-3016 are missing; in Ch lines A 1554-1634 are missing. Those readings and variants I deem significant follow.

A 931	wepe --- --- thus	Cx ¹					
	wepe and waille thus	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	En ¹	En ³	
A 975	<u>He rood the</u>	Cx ¹					
	The rede	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 975	--- --- with spere and targe	Cx ¹					
	of Mars with spere and targe	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1031	and --- Arcite	Cx ¹					
	and --- his felaw Arcite	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	
A 1032	no <u>man</u>	Cx ¹					
	no gold	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1148*	To forthre me as I have told	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1148*	biforn	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1149*	For which thou art y-bounden	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1149*	as a knight	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1150*	To helpen me	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1150*	if it lay	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1150*	in thy might	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1151*	or elles artow fals	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	
A 1151*	I dar wel seyn	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1152*	This Arcite ful proudly	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El		
A 1152*	spak ageyn	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1153*	Thou shalt quod he	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1153*	be rather fals	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1153*	than I	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1154*	But thou art fals	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	En ³		
A 1154*	I telle thee utterly	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ³	
A 1155*	For par amour	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ³	
A 1155*	I loved hir first	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³
A 1155*	er thou	Cx ²	Ad ³	Ch	El	En ¹	En ³

- A 1156* What wiltow seyn Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 A 1156* thou wistest Cx² El
 A 1156* nat yet now Cx² Ad³ Ch El
 A 1157* Whether Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 A 1157* she be Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹
 A 1157* a woman Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 A 1157* or a goddesse Cx² En¹ En³
 A 1158* Thyn is affeccioun of holinesse Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 A* 1159*¹⁷ And myn is love as to a creature Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 A 1160* For which I tolde thee myn aventure Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 A 1161* As to my cosin Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 A 1161* and my brother sworn Cx² El En¹
 A 1193* Sin thilke day Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En³
 A 1194* to visyte Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 A 1195* And for Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 A 1196* For in this world he loved no man so Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 A* 1197* loved him Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 1199* sothly Cx² Ad³ Ch El
 A 1199* to telle Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 1223* the day Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd En¹ En³
 A 1223* that I was born Cx² Ad³ Ch En¹ En³
 A 1294 --- shit here Cx¹
 that sterve here Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 A 1462* It fel Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 A 1462* in that seventhe yeer Cx² Ch
 A 1462* in May Cx² Dd El En¹ En³
 A 1593* I drede noght Cx² El En¹ En³
 A 1594* Or thou ne shalt nat loven Cx² El En¹
 A 1594* Emelye Cx² El En¹ En³
 A 1595* Chees which thou wilt Cx² El En¹ En³
 A 1596* This Arcite with Cx² El En¹
 A 1596* ful despitous herte Cx² El En¹ En³
 A 1597* Whan he him knew and hadde his tale herd Cx² El En¹ En³
 A 1598* As fiers as leoun Cx² El En¹
 A 1598* pulled out hys swerd Cx² El En¹
 A 1599* And seyde thus Cx² El En¹ En³
 A 1599* by god that sit above Cx² El En¹ En³

¹⁷When the group symbol is starred, in that line two collation readings are combined.

- A 1600* Nere it that Cx² El En¹
 A 1600* thou art Cx² El En¹
 A 1600* sik and wood for love Cx² El En¹
 A* 1601* And eek that thou no wepne hast Cx² El En¹ En³
 A 1601* in this place Cx² El En¹ En³
 A 1602* Thou sholdest Cx² El En¹ En³
 A 1602* never out of this grove pace Cx² El En³
 A 1717 and knyghtes Cx¹
 two caytyves Cx² Ch El En³
 A 1759 kild hem Cx¹
 kist his feet Cx² Ch El En¹ En³
 A 1885 entre Cx¹
 theatre Cx² Ch El En¹ En³
 A 1901 The entre Cx¹
 The theatre Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 A 1943* Ne yet Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd En¹ En³
 A 2012* Armed compleint out hees Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹
 A 2014* Of gualm Cx² Ad³ Dd En³
 A 2014* a thousand slayn and not Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
 A 2015* The tiraunt Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 2015* by force Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 2015* yraft Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 2016* The town destroyed ther was no thing Cx² Ch Dd El En¹
 En³
 A 2017* hoppesteres Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 2044* Of sterres that Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 A 2154 as knyghtes Cx¹
 with hertes Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 A 2167 and grym Cx¹
 citryn Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
 A 2195* that no mannes wit Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd En¹ En³
 A 2212* Yet song the larke and Palamon right tho Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd
 En¹ En³
 A 2276 with hem fair clothis Cx¹
 with hem the fyr Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 2501* Lordes in paraments on Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 A 2503 Raying Cx¹
 Nailinge Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 2549* y-grounde spere Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 2572 hem of ladyes Cx¹
 that Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En³

- A 2603* sharpe spore Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 2655* Unto the folk that foghten thus echoon Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd
 El En¹
 A 2788* With circumstances al Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd En¹
 A 2792* have of my soule part Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 A 2815* Arcite is cold ther Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹
 A 2881 That thorough the Cx¹
 That roreth of the Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 A 2899* The nobleste of the Grekes Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 2899* that ther were Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹

No existing manuscript could have been the source of The Knight's Tale, but El seems to be the closest. Ad³ would probably appear equally close had we the more than 600 lines which are lost from it. But even with the lost portions of Dd, that manuscript would probably not appear very near. The evidence is only that Y was close to the best extant texts.

<u>The Miller's Tale</u>							
Cx ¹	Cx ²	Ch	El	Dd	En ¹	Ad ³	En ³
199	132	110	104	99	99	91	76
	6	5	5	5	6	5	4
	18	17	15	17	18	15	13

All the manuscripts are complete for The Miller's Tale.

The supplied readings and significant variants follow.

- A 3251 Tasseled with grene Cx¹
 Tasseled with silk Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd En¹ En³
 A 3322 Full faire and wel Cx¹
 Full faire and thikke Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 3393 of tymes leve Cx¹
 the ferre leve Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 3445 As he had loked Cx¹
 As he had kyked Cx² El En¹ En³
 A 3765* And seyde unto Gerveys Cx² Ch Dd El En¹
 A 3766* It am I Absolon Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd En¹ En³
 A 3767* What Absolon what Cristes Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd En¹
 A* 3770* thus upon the viritoot Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 A 3771* --- what I mene Cx² En¹
 A 3772* This Absolon ne roghte Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹

En¹ supplies all the necessary readings in Cx² in this tale. This fact does not mean that En¹ is the source of the tale, but that, in the shifting family relationships, En¹ and Y were especially close in these lines.

<u>The Reve's Tale</u>							
Cx ¹	Cx ²	Ch	El	Dd	En ¹	Ad ³	En ³
159	111	81	80	78	75	70	67
	8	8	8	7	7	5	6

Because of missing leaves Ad³ lacks A 3859-3933. The other manuscripts and the two editions are all complete. The significant variants follow.

- A 3912 forto sown Cx¹
 force of-showve Cx² Ch Dd El En¹
- A 3928 and lepe Cx¹
 and shete Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
- A 4236 my fair swete wight Cx¹
 Malin swete wight Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
- A 4262 --- --- thou Cx¹
 thou John thou Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- A 4276 the blod --- Cx¹
 the bloody streem Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³

In the Reve's Tale both Ch and El are sufficiently close to Y to have supplied all the required readings in Cx².

<u>The Cook's Tale</u>							
Cx ¹	Cx ²	Ad ³	El	Dd	En ¹	En ³	Ch
36	12	8	8	7	7	7	6
	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
	4	3	3	3	3	1	3

The significant variants and supplied readings follow.

- A 4351* That they han eten Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- A 4351* with the stubbed goos Cx² En³
- A 4352* For in thy shoppe Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- A 4352* is many a flye loos Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- A 4401 styborn Cx¹
 snibbed Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³

No manuscript supplies all the required readings, but Ad³, Dd, El, and En¹ are equally close. En³ alone supplies the unimportant reading of A 4351, though it is not close elsewhere.

<u>The Man of Law's Tale</u>							
Cx ¹	Cx ²	El	Ch	En ¹	Dd	En ³	Ad ³
430	239	176	167	154	152	152	87
	6	5	5	4	3	5	4
	6	5	5	4	5	5	3

Because of missing leaves, Ad³ lacks lines B 68-623 and Dd lacks B 530-710. The significant variants and the readings follow.

- B 42* Al my biheste Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 B 95 the which hath no lak Cx¹
 with hawe bake Cx² Ch Dd El En³
 B 276* And ye my moder Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 B 276* my soverayn plesance Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 B 368 Thou madest one to bringe Cx¹
 Thou madest Eva to bringe Cx² En³
 B 649 in all the prees Cx¹
 that was bistad Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 B 657 O ryal lady Cx¹
 O blood royal Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 B 985* for his wyf wepeth Cx² En³
 B 985* and syketh sore Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En³
 B 1095 This Alla was Cx¹
 And well Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹

Ch, El, and En³ are equally near to Y, but none could have been used to supply Cx² with its readings.

The Merchant's Tale

Cx ¹	Cx ²	El	Ch	Dd	En ¹	Ad ³	En ³
528	309	222	216	198	197	172	157
	11	9	11	9	10	7	4
	41	39	38	33	31	28	34

Because of missing leaves, Ad³ lacks E 1236-1308. Those variants which I deem significant in Cx² follow.

- E 1307* This sentence and Cx² Ch El En¹ En³
 E 1307* an hundred thinges worse Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 E 1308* Wryteth this man ther god his bones corse Cx² Ch El
 E 1452 while it is new Cx¹
 whan that it is due Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd En¹
 E 1462 that the tree grene be Cx¹
 that fruyt y-woxen be Cx² Ch Dd El En¹
 E 1477* Justinus soothly called was that other Cx² Ch Dd El
 E 1646* withouten wo and stryf Cx² Dd El En¹ En³
 E 1692 by sleight and by trettee Cx¹
 by sly and wys trettee Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹
 E 1777* So sore hath Venus hurt him Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 E 1825 of a fissh Cx¹
 of houndfish Cx² Ch El
 E 1885 as I understand Cx¹
 that at noon was Cx² Ch Dd El En¹
 E 1927* And spede you faste for I wol abyde Cx Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹

- E 2004* Under his pilwe rede it Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 E 2004* if him leste Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 E 2072* He wepeth and he wayleth Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 E 2072* pitously Cx² Ch El En³
 E 2079 But ever live --- --- Cx¹
 But ever live as a widwe Cx² Dd En¹
 E 2230* Ech after other right as Cx² Ch El
 E 2230* any lyne Cx² En³
 E 2266* yeven hir suffisant answere Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 E 2281* Wommen ful trewe ful gode Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 E 2282* Witnesse of hem Cx² Ad³ Dd En¹ En³
 E 2284* eek maken remembrance Cx² Ch Dd El En³
 E 2286* Of many a verray trewe wyf also Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 E 2286* But sire ne be nat wrooth Cx² Ad³ Ch El
 E 2287* he seyde Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 E 2287* he fond no good womman Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³

Ch and El are almost equally close to the text of Cx², Ch being able to have supplied all the significant variants. Y, Ch, and El were very close in this tale.

The Man of Law's End Link

The Man of Law's End Link is not contained in any of the manuscripts with which Y is affiliated. In these twenty-eight lines Cx² agrees with Cx¹ ten times, and departs from it seven times, of which four are unique. The other three are compositor's errors or the correction of them in Cx¹, and one is a substitution. No manuscript is required for any of these changes.

This link is used in Cx² to connect The Merchant's Tale and The Squire's Tale, and accordingly B 1179 reads Squyer in Cx², as in Bw Cp Cx¹ Dl En² Fi Gl Ha² Ha³ He Ht Il La Lc Ld² Mm Ne Ph³ Pw Ra¹ Ra² Sl¹ Sl² Tc¹ Tc².

The Squire's Tale

Cx ¹	Cx ²	Dd	El	Ch	Ad ³	En ¹	En ³
317	158	113	112	110	108	108	73
	3	2	2	2	2	3	2
	11	10	10	9	9	9	8

The Squire's Epilogue is considered separately. The variants within The Squire's Tale, which appear significant including the agreements where Cx¹ is wanting, follow.

- F 58 and so this kyng Cx¹

This Cambuscan Cx² En¹

- F 553* by twenty thousand part Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En³
 F 554* Countrefete the sophimes Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 F 554* of his art Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
 F 555* to unbokele his galoche Cx² Ad³
 F 556* or feyning sholde approche Cx² Dd El En¹

Dd and El are equally close to Cx² though not in full agreement. En¹ alone supplies the spelling of Cambuscan in F 58. The evidence merely points to a close family relationship between Y and the Dd — El groups of manuscripts.

The Squire's Epilogue

The Squire's Epilogue is not contained in Ch, and because of missing leaves Dd lacks F 673-753. According to the Chicago collations sixty-nine readings are involved in this epilogue. In four of these Cx² is unique. Of the others Cx² agrees with El fifty-nine times, with En¹ fifty-six times, with Ad³ fifty-one times, and with En³ forty-six times. The six departures from the El readings in which Cx² is not alone are very trivial and in five of the six readings Cx² is in agreement with En¹ or Ad³ or both. El is the closest single manuscript, but the source of Cx² in this passage is not extant.

The Franklin's Tale

Cx ¹	Cx ²	El	Ch	Ad ³	En ³	En ¹	Dd
403	284	236	223	212	210	208	206
	16	14	13	13	10	10	10
	34	33	32	32	29	29	28

Because of missing leaves, Dd lacks F 1472-1564. The apparently significant agreements follow.

- F 975* ye may Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 F 982* Aurelie I knowe your entente Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 F 992 fro Englund to Britayne Cx¹
 that endelong Britayne Cx² El
 F 1130* eight-and-twenty mansions Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 F 1195 He saugh where woundid Cx¹
 He saugh whan voided Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 F 1208 while they saw Cx¹
 and no wight Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 F 1257* to his maister chere and reverence Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 F 1259* out of his paynes smerte Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 F 1260* that he Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En³
 F 1414 Whan Hellerada Cx¹

- D 1191 poverte is an high joye Cx¹
 poverte is syn Cx² Dd En¹

Dd is the closest in the significant variants failing only in the unimportant ancestres for which it has the singular. But it alone supplies the all-important D 44e which proves that in this tale Cx² is from the very highest authority. But E1 alone supplies all the readings not in Cx¹ so that Dd cannot be the source of Cx² here. But Y was very close in its relationships to the E1-Dd groups of manuscripts.

The Friar's Tale

Cx ¹	Cx ²	Ch	E1	Ad ³	En ¹	Dd	En ³
201	76	64	59	59	53	51	44
	2	2	2	2	2	2	1

- D 1270 god you ever kepe fro scathe Cx¹
 god yeve you right good lyf Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd E1 En¹

Anyone of the considered manuscripts save En³ could be the source of The Friar's Tale which fact merely proves that the source was a good text.

The Summoner's Tale

Cx ¹	Cx ²	Ch	Ad ³	E1	Dd	En ¹	En ³
284	106	80	79	71	66	57	53
	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
	16	13	16	14	13	11	9

- D 1527* My trouthe wol I holde to the my brother Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd
 En¹ En³
- D 1528* As I am sworn Cx² Ad³ Ch E1 En¹
- D 1529* trewe brother Cx² Ad³ Ch E1 En¹ En³
- D 1529* in this cas Cx² Ad³ Ch E1 En³
- D 1816 been nat worth Cx¹
 been ful necligent Cx² Ad³ Ch E1
- D 1917* was man Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd E1 En¹
- D 2018* As seith Senek that duringe his estaat Cx² Ad³ Dd E1 En¹
- D 2229* Who ever herde of swiche a thing Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd
- D 2229* er now Cx² Ad³ Dd E1
- D 2254* Withouten wind Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd E1
- D 2254* or perturbinge of air Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd E1

Ad³ could have been the source of The Summoner's Tale.

The Clerk's Tale

Cx ¹	Cx ²	Ch	E1	Ad ³	Dd	En ³	En ¹
485	257	187	185	178	175	171	160
	4	3	3	2	3	3	3
	14	13	13	11	10	13	10

The significant agreements in The Clerk's Tale and in the seven-line epilogue which follows it in Cx¹ and Cx² follow.

- E 56 But thus he begynneth Cx¹
 But this is Cx² Ch Dd En¹ En³
 E 455* Needless Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
 E 455* --- t'afraze Cx² Ad³ En³
 E 775* Toward Saluce and lordes many oon Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 E 776 --- --- --- this mayden for to gyde Cx¹
 In riche array this mayden for to gyde Cx² Ad³ Ch El
 E 997* Delytyng ever Cx² Ch Dd El En¹
 E 998* For lyk the mone ay Cx² Ch Dd El En³
 E 998* wexe ye and wane Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
 Epilogue 5 My wyf --- --- had herde this legende oonys Cx¹
 My wyf at home had herde this legende oonys Cx² Dd El
 En¹ En³

Ch, El, and En³ are equally close to Cx² in this tale, but none quite fills the requirements for Y. The fact does, however, indicate the quality of the lost manuscript.

The Second Nun's Tale							
Cx ¹	Cx ²	Dd	En ¹	Ch	El	Ad ³	En ³
223	63	52	50	49	48	46	42
	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
	6	6	6	6	5	5	6

Significant variants follow.

- G 84* And prey yow Cx² Ch Dd En¹ En³
 G 460 as y the seye Cx¹
 by that weye Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹

Ch, Dd, and En¹ could each have supplied The Second Nun's Tale, with the other manuscripts all close.

The Canon's Yeoman's Tale							
Cx ¹	Cx ²	En ¹	El	Ad ³	Ch	En ³	Dd
410	130	92	86	83	65	59	39
	4	4	3	3	2	2	3
	17	17	14	14	0	14	17

Because of missing leaves, Dd lacks G 856 to the end of the manuscript and Ch lacks G 627-944. All the other manuscripts are complete. The following appear to be significant variants.

- G 681 We mowen it nat lerne --- though Cx¹
 We mowen nat al-though Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
 G 704* Al that I can Cx² Dd El En¹ En³
 G 704* anon --- Cx² Dd En¹
 G 704* I woll you telle Cx² Dd En¹

- G 705* Sin he is goon Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
G 705* the foule feend him quelle Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
G 706* for never her-after Cx² Ad³ Dd En¹ En³
G 706* wol I with him mete Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
G 707* For peny ne for pound Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
G 707* I yow bihete Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
G 708* He that me broghte first Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
G 709* Er that he dye Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
G 709* sorwe have he and shame Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
G 787* Bycause that I am a lewed man Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
G 788* Yet wol I telle hem Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
G 788* as they come to minde Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
G 789* Though I ne can Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹
G 789* nat sette hem in hir kinde Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
G 794 Turokis Cx¹
Cucurbitis Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹
G 965 men --- --- crye Cx¹
we clappe or crye Cx² En¹

En¹ could have supplied the text of The Canon's Yeoman's Tale. El and Ad³ are the next closest manuscripts, a fact again indicating that the Y readings were good.

The Physician's Tale

Cx ¹	Cx ²	El	Ch	Dd	En ¹	Ad ³	En ³
150	60	50	50	50	46	44	41
	5	5	5	5	4	4	5
	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
C 6	<u>And never</u> Cx ¹						
	No children Cx ² Ch Dd El En ¹ En ³						
C 96	<u>in --- ignorance</u> Cx ¹						
	under your governance Cx ² Ad ³ Ch Dd El En ³						
C 246*	was Cx ² Ad ³						

All the manuscripts are almost equally close; the unimportant was for is in Ad³ gives that manuscript no advantage over the others. Ch, Dd, El, and En³ could each have been the source of the tale.

Words of the Host and Pardoner's Tale

Cx ¹	Cx ²	Dd	El	Ad ³	Ch	En ¹	En ³
311	131	101	99	94	93	93	82
	3	2	2	0	2	1	2
	25	20	21	21	20	18	17
C 291*	and hir	Cx ²	Ch Dd El En ¹	En ³			
C 291*	advocats	Cx ²	Ch Dd El En ¹				

- C 292* Allas this Cx² En¹
 C 292* allas Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En³
 C 297* Hir beaute was hir deeth I dar wel sayn Cx² Ad³
 C 298* Allas so pitously as she was slayn Cx² Ad³
 C 448* I wol have money wolles chese Cx² Ch Dd El En¹
 C 448* and whete Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
 C 593* Blaspheme of Crist Cx² Ad³
 C 622* of Parthes Cx² Ad³ Ch El
 C 622* as the book Cx² Ad³ Dd El En³
 C 622* seith us Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En³
 C 688 child --- --- and page Cx¹
 child --- hyne and page Cx² Dd
 C 713 an old --- --- pore man Cx¹
 an old man and a poure Cx² Ch El En³
 C 928 tounes ende Cx¹
 mylis ende Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³

Ad³ alone supplies the reading of C 593. Dd alone agrees in C 688, but the Cx² reading could result from a careless omission from a fuller reading. All the extant texts fail in five or more instances. The fact, however, that Y is always in agreement with some one manuscript of the a-group is proof that it offered a good text.

The Shipman's Tale

Cx ¹	Cx ²	En ¹	El	Ch	Dd	En ³	Ad ³
206	53	42	41	40	39	34	31
	3	3	3	2	3	1	2
	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Because of missing leaves, Ad³ lacks B 1608-1670 and Dd lacks B 1584-1663. The other manuscripts are all complete. The variants which appear to indicate manuscript influence follow.

- B 1237* In al that hous but Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd En¹ En³
 B 1262 vitayl Cx¹
 volatil Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹
 B 1364 Desyren thinges --- Cx¹
 Desyren thinges sixe Cx² Ch Dd El En¹

The Shipman's Tale could be drawn from Dd, El, or En¹; this fact, however, merely indicates that Y was equally near to all three in this tale.

The Prioress's Tale

Cx ¹	Cx ²	Ch	En ¹	El	En ³	Dd	Ad ³
90	40	29	28	27	24	19	17
	1	1	0	1	1	0	0

Because of missing leaves, Dd lacks B 1837-1880. All the other manuscripts are complete. The variant which appears indicative of manuscript influence follows.

B 1830 was --- --- Cx¹
was holy water Cx² Ch El En³

The evidence is too slight in The Prioress' Tale to show anything definitely. Ch, El, and En³ all supply the one significant agreement. All are equally close to manuscript Y.

<u>Sir Thopas</u>							
Cx ¹	Cx ²	En ¹	Ad ³	Ch	El	Dd	En ³
65	33	25	24	24	24	19	16
	10	9	9	10	9	8	6

Because of missing leaves, Dd lacks B 1881-1934.

B 1932* Ful many a mayde bright in bour Cx² Ch El En¹ En³
B 2011* with this launcegay Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
B 2014* Shal I Cx² Ad³ Ch
B 2014* percen Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
B 2014* if I may Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹

Ch meets all the requirements for a source of Sir Thopas in Cx² with Ad³ El and En¹ all nearly as close.

<u>Prologue to Melibeus</u>							
Cx ¹	Cx ²	Ad ³	El	Dd	En ¹	En ³	Ch
25	12	8	7	7	7	7	6
	2	2	2	2	1	2	2

B 2111 --- --- Of thy verray lewednesse Cx¹
So wery of thy verray ledwednesse Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En³
So far as this reading indicates, the source of Cx² could be Ad³, Ch, Dd, El, or En³. But the agreements can only mean that all these manuscripts were equally near to Y.

<u>The Monk's Tale</u>							
Cx ¹	Cx ²	Ad ³	Dd	El	En ¹	Ch	En ³
359	222	163	160	158	152	150	137
	7	5	6	6	7	7	7
	67	65	64	67	57	64	59

B 3187* Lat no man truste Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
B 3187* on blind prosperitee Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
B 3198* With goddes owene finger Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
B 3200* And welte Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹
B 3200* al paradys saving o tree Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El
B 3201* Had never worldly man so heigh degree Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹
B 3203* Was drive out of his hye prosperitee Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd
El En¹

- B 3204* and to mischaunce Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹
- B 3271 --- --- there Cx¹
as hir fool Cx² Ch Dd En¹ En³
- B 3300 his spere longe Cx¹
his nekke longe Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
- B 3611* So small that wel Cx² Ch Dd En¹
- B 3851 Thy strong Cx¹
Thy sys Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³
- B 3566* so hy in magestee Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En³
- B 3568* Out of thy lond Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3568* made the flees Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3569* And after at a sege Cx² Dd El En¹ En³
- B 3570* Thou were betrayed Cx² En³
- B 3570* and lad Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
- B 3573 The feeld of snow with th'egle of blak Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El
- B 3573* ther-inne Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3575* He brew this cursednesse Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
- B 3577* Noght Charles Oliver Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En³
- B 3578* Of trouthe and honour but of Cx² Ad³ Dd El En¹ En³
- B 3579* for mede Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3580* Broghte this worthy king Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³
- B 3582* by heigh maistrye Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3583* Ful many Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3583* a hethen Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3583* ful wo Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El
- B 3584* liges hadde envye Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³

Ch, En¹, and En³ all agree with Cx² in every significant variant, but El and Ad³ are closer than those manuscripts in the lines where Cx¹ is wanting. These facts make it clear that Y is not to be found among the extant manuscripts, but they demonstrate equally well that Y was closely related to the a-group of manuscripts. Further evidence for the affiliation of Y lies in the fact that Y supplied B 3565-3588 to Cx² and that they appear in Cx² after B 3916 where they are placed by Ad¹ Ad³ Ch Cn Dd Ds El En¹ En³ Gg Hg Ln Ma Py Se. This arrangement separates Cx² definitely from the group of manuscripts to which Cx¹ is related. The same division of the manuscripts appears too in the reading of B 3568 where Cx² and the manuscripts listed above agree and where all others insert bastard before brother.

The Nun's Priest's Prologue and Tale							
Cx ¹	Cx ²	En ¹	Dd	Ch	El	Ad ³	En ³
262	187	136	132	128	122	101	99
	5	3	4	2	4	3	0
	45	40	38	37	38	29	25

Because of missing leaves, Dd lacks lines B 4000-4079.

The significant departures from Cx¹, including the lines of the "Epilogue," follow.

- B 3957 quod our host --- Cx¹
 quod the knight Cx² Dd En¹
- B 3961* I seye for me Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3964* And the contrarie is joie and --- solas Cx² En¹
- B 3965* As whan Cx² Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3965* a man hath been Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3968* Swich thing is gladsome as --- Cx² Ad³ Ch En¹ En³
- B 3971* Ye seye right sooth Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3972* He spak how fortune covered Cx² Ch El
- B 3972* with a cloud Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
- B 3973* and als Cx² Ad³ Dd En¹
- B 3973* of a tragedie Cx² Dd El
- B 3974* Right now Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
- B 3975* It is Cx² Ad³ Ch El
- B 3975* for to bewaille Cx² Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3975* ne compleyne Cx² Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3976* That that is doon Cx² Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3976* and als Cx² Dd El En¹
- B 3977* to here of hevinesse Cx² Ch Dd El En¹ En³
- B 3978* Sir Monk na-more of this Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹
- B 3980* Swich talking Cx² Ad³ El
- B 3981 Your talis don us Cx¹
 For ther-in is ther Cx² Dd El
- B 4006 quod he --- --- Cx¹
 quod he yis host Cx² Ad³ El En¹
- B 4060a* He fethered her an hundred tymes a day Cx² En¹
- B 4060b* And she him pleseth al that ever she may Cx² En¹
- B 4122* Of kontek Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd En¹ En³
- B 4122* and of waspys grete and lyte Cx² Dd En¹
- B 4147 Ye nat --- Cx¹
 Yow nat repleet Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En³
- B 4396* God woot that worldly joye is sone ago Cx² Ch Dd El En¹
- B 4476* than a feend Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹

B 4575 --- --- and eek Cx¹
and calf and eek Cx² Ad³ Ch Dd En¹

No extant manuscript meets the requirements for Y in The Nun's Priest's Tale. Ch, Dd, El, and En¹ are about equally near to the readings in Cx² with Ad³ and En³ unusually remote from the Y text.

Epilogue to The Nun's Priest's Tale

- B 4637*¹⁸ Sir Nonnes Preest our hoste seyde anoon Cx² Ad¹ Ch Cn
Dd En¹ En³ Ma Ry¹
- B 4638* Y-blessed be thy breche and every stoon Cx² Cn Dd Ds
En¹ Ma Ry¹
- B 4640* But by my trouthe if thou were secular Cx² Ad¹ Ch Cn
Dd En¹ En³ Ma
- B 4642* For if thou have corage as thou hast might Cx² Ch Cn
Dd En¹ En³ Ma Ry¹
- B 4643* Thee were nede of hennes as I wene Cx² Ad¹ Ch Dd Ds
En¹ En³ Ma Ry¹
- B 4644* Ya more than seven tyme^s seventene Cx² Ad¹ Dd En³
Ma Ry¹
- B 4645* See whiche braunes hath this gentil Preest Cx² Ch Cn
Dd Ds En¹ Ma Ry¹
- B 4646* So greet a nekke and a swich a large breest Cx² Ad¹
Dd Ds En¹ Ma
- B 4648* Him nedeth nat his colours for to deyen Cx² Ry¹
- B 4650* But sire faire falle yow for youre tale Cx² alone
- B 4651* And after that he with ful mery chere Cx² Ad¹ Dd Ds
En¹ En³ Ma Ry¹
- B 4652* Sayde to an other man Cx² alone (edited to fit order
of tales in Cx²)
- B 4652* as ye shullen here Cx² Ch Dd Ds En¹ En³ Ma Ry¹

In this passage there are seventeen readings. Of these, Dd and Ma agree in supplying fourteen. En¹ supplies thirteen; Ry¹ supplies twelve; Ad¹, Ch, and En³ supply ten each, but they are not in agreement among themselves. Cn trails with nine readings. The unimportant use in Ry¹ of the plural colours for the singular need not be considered as pointing necessarily to a relationship of Y with that manuscript. Nor are the unique

¹⁸I give all the agreements, save those where all manuscripts agree, in this passage which occurs only in Ad¹ Ch Cn Cx² Dd Ds En¹ En³ Ma and Ry¹.

readings of B 4650 and B 4652 significant. Dd and Ma are therefore sufficiently close to be considered as possible sources of this link in Cx².

<u>The Manciple's Tale</u>						
Cx ¹	Cx ²	El	Ad ³	Ch	En ¹	En ³
153	36	27	27	27	24	21
	3	3	3	2	2	3

Because of missing leaves Dd is wanting for the entire Manciple's Tale.

H 316* But as I seyde Cx² Ad³ Ch El En¹ En³

H 316* I am noght Cx² Ad³ El En¹ En³

H 316* textuel Cx² Ad³ Ch El En³

Ad³, El, and En³ could each be the source of this tale, which fact means that they are all equally close to Y.

The Parson's Prologue contains no evidence in its readings for the identity of Caxton's new manuscript.

For clarity the above material may be summarized in tabular form.

Tales for Which Extant Manuscripts
Could Have Been the Source

Miller's Tale -- En¹

Reve's Tale -- Ch El

Shipman's Tale -- Dd El En¹

Prioress' Tale -- Ch El En³

Sir Thopas -- Ch

Prologue to Melibeus -- Ad³ Ch Dd El En³

Epilogue to Nun's Priest's Tale -- Dd (Ma)

Physician's Tale -- Ch Dd El En³

Friar's Tale -- Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹

Summoner's Tale -- Ad³

Franklin's Tale -- El possibly

Second Nun's Tale -- Ch Dd En¹

Canon Yeoman's Tale -- En¹

Manciple's Tale -- Ad³ El En³

Necessary minimum for these tales: Ad³ Ch Dd El En¹

Tales Which Could Have Been Supplied by the
Conflation of Two Extant Manuscripts

Cook's Tale -- En³ and one of Ad³ Dd El or En¹

Man of Law's Tale -- En³ and either Ch or El

Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale -- Dd and El necessary

Squire's Tale -- Ad³ and En¹ necessary

To supply these four tales to Cx², En³ must be added to the above five manuscripts as necessary.

Tales for Which No Extant Manuscript
Could Have Been the Source

Prologue -- Ch closest

Knight's Tale -- El closest

Man of Law's end-link -- not in any of the six MSS

Monk's Tale -- Ch El closest

Nun's Priest's Tale -- Ch Dd El En¹ about equally close

Words of Host to Pardoner and Pardoner's Tale -- El closest

Clerk's Tale -- Ch El En³ closest

Merchant's Tale -- Ch closest

Squire's Epilogue -- El closest

CONCLUSION

In the preceding pages it has been demonstrated that Caxton set up type for Cx² from a corrected copy of Cx¹, and that this correction consisted in rearranging two tales of the Canterbury Tales, borrowing new lines, rejecting some lines in Cx¹, collating readings, and in a few instances editing lines. The process resulted in a rather extensively conflated text, and to a less extent an edited text. The manuscript from which he made these corrections is not now known to exist, but it was a good manuscript very near to the texts of Ad³, Dd, and El. The fact that the relationships of Cx² shift from tale to tale may indicate that Y, though good, was still late enough in origin to have been made up from a number of different manuscripts in the separate quires, or tales, and hence itself conflate. But regardless of this theory, the quality of Y is demonstrable. It was as Caxton's young friend asserted: "very trewe and accordynge unto hys owen [Chaucer's] first book by hym made. . . ."

